

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES
MADE, AND LISTING OF ALL CLAIMS WITH PROPER IDENTIFIERS**

1.-14. (Canceled)

15. (New) A method for automatic configuration of an automation component of an automation system, comprising the steps of:

providing a server having stored therein a plurality of configuration data records;

connecting a server to a client via communication means to thereby define an automation component,

request by the client to the server for receiving one of the configuration data records;

transmitting the requested configuration data record by the server to the client; and

storing of the transmitted configuration data record in the client.

16. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the requested configuration data record of the plurality of configuration data records is selected in dependence on the functionality of the client.

17. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the server stores a plurality of configuration data records in correspondence with a functionality of the client.

18. (New) The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of autonomous identification of the client within a defined machine context.

19. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein at least two of the plurality of configuration data records are stored locally in the client.

20. (New) The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of operating the client by activating one of the at least two stored configuration data records in the client.
21. (New) The method of claim 15, further comprising the steps of storing pollable firmware data records in the server, request by the client to the server for receiving one of the firmware data records, and storing and activating the received firmware data record in the client.
22. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the client communication is matched to the automation system to enable operation of the client during continuous operation of the automation system.
23. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the client and the server operate on a single automation device.
24. (New) The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of loading the configuration data records for different machine upgrade levels for a machine in the server by an engineering system.
25. (New) The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of automatically loading an existing configuration data record in the client in the server.
26. (New) A method for starting up an automation component in an automation system, comprising the steps of:
 - requesting a communication address for initiating and activating this communication address;
 - configuring a client, which represents an automation component, by using a first configuration data record which enables identification of a

functionality of the client, and subsequent automatic activation of the first configuration data record; and

configuring the client by using a second configuration data record in correspondence with the identified functionality, and by activating the second configuration data record.

27. (New) The method as claimed in claim 26, further comprising the steps of storing the configuration data records for different machine upgrade levels for a machine in the server beforehand by an engineering system to allow request and activation of the configuration data records when the machine is later started up by an input of an operator on the machine.
28. (New) An automation system, comprising:
- a plurality of automation components, having
 - a client defining a first automation component; and
 - a server defining a second automation component and connected to the client via communication means;
 - a plurality of configuration data records for storage in the server,
 - wherein the client is configured to automatically request from the server one of the configuration data records,
 - wherein the server in response to the request transmits a requested configuration data record to the client, and
 - wherein the transmitted configuration data record is stored in the client.